



«For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost» (Luke 19:10)

MINISTRY UPDATE: AUGUST 2025

Dear Friends and Partners, shalom!

In this letter, we would like to share with you a couple of new stories from our ministry projects, followed by most recent news and prayer requests. Thank you for your prayers and support!

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THE TOOL

Today we were once again in Tel Aviv, serving food to the homeless. Everything was going as usual, until one of our neighbors – who has got a carpentry next to Aviv Center – shut off our water supply. (He does it sometimes, hoping it will encourage us to move out...)

He used a special wrench to close the main valve. We couldn't wash dishes, couldn't use the bathroom, couldn't clean the floors. I called the municipality – and they reopened the valve. But the neighbor kept coming back and shutting it off... This went on the entire day.

By the evening, I stood behind the building, next to the water pipes, deeply discouraged.

I had no tools to reopen the valve. I needed special pliers – and I didn't have any.

At that moment, two homeless guys suddenly appeared from around the corner. They were pushing a shopping cart full of old, filthy backpacks and tattered bags. Their clothes were torn and dirty. One had long, matted hair that covered most of his face – only one eye was visible. They walked up and said:

“Hey, what's wrong?”

“You probably can't help,” I said wearily. “Unless you have pliers...”

One of them smirked.

“Nah, no pliers. What happened?”

I told them briefly: our neighbor shut off the water, and we couldn't even clean up after serving food. They glanced at each other, and one of them lit up:

“Oh, I know them! They're Christians. This guy made me a sandwich today. He's from that soup kitchen. Give him whatever he needs!”

The second guy walked over to the cart and opened one of the filthy bags. Inside was a full set of professional burglary tools – and the exact pliers I needed. He took it out, opened the valve, and handed the tool to me:

“Keep it. If it gets shut off again – you'll be able to open it yourself.”

The other hesitated: “But we need that tool. We won't be able to... work...”

I understood what he meant. These were likely their break-in tools, their way of surviving.

But the first one shook his head: “No. He needs it more. Give it to him.”

I reached for my pockets: “Let me pay you. At least something.”

But they both refused: “No. What you're doing is important – it's holy work. Keep it.”

And they walked away.

I stood there, holding the tool in my hand, stunned and deeply grateful. And I thought: Our God can use even what was made for evil – for good. He can use people with dark pasts, even criminal



ones, to bring help, strength, and comfort. And someone who seems “respectable” – with a trade, a workshop, and a toolbox – can be the one standing in the way of love.

God flips the script. He opens water to those who thirst. And He gives the tool – through the most unexpected hands.

Praise God!

(By Sergey, Assistant Director of Aviv Ministry)



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Our work in Ashkelon continues to grow as we meet more families in need. This is **Yuri and Yelena – Ukrainian refugees with 3 children**. They arrived in 2022, invited by relatives, with only 5 backpacks and no way to prove their Jewish roots officially. Legal help is too expensive, so they live in Israel with temporary status.

Their journey has been heartbreaking: their apartment in Ashkelon was hit by shrapnel during the 2023 Hamas war; Yelena was diagnosed with cancer and undergoes treatment; their eldest son fell into a coma one day and was diagnosed with diabetes. He now gives himself daily insulin shots, while also working to help support the family.

Yuri works full-time at a carwash – legally employed, thanks to the kind business owner. Their strength and humility are incredibly moving. They never ask for more than they need. They just say, “Thank you.”

We’ve taken this family under our care and are committed to supporting them with food packages and other needs. We have also invited them to visit a Messianic congregation. ***Please keep them in your prayers – for healing, provision, and hope for the future.***

MORE NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Arab Rehabilitation Center**

The opening of the new rehab center is getting closer, praise the Lord! We have already met with the landlord of the building we plan to rent and have reached a preliminary agreement on the rental terms. The landlord will first carry out renovations for about one to two months, and after that, God willing, we should be able to open the center.

- **Women’s Shelter**

Another answer to prayer! The Lord has provided a new worker for our Women’s Shelter – exactly the help we needed. **Tania** is moving to Beersheva from the north of Israel to work with us. ***Please pray that her transition into our team will be smooth and successful.***

We have also just welcomed a new resident, **Alona***. She came to us directly from an overcrowded, bedbug-infested prison cell, where she had been waiting for trial after an incident with her abusive husband. The court has now released her to be under home arrest in our Shelter. ***Please pray for her – she is very anxious about her future.*** The situation is especially difficult as she and her husband have an elementary school-aged child.

Thank you for supporting our ministry and please feel free to share your prayers requests with us too anytime!

Yours in His Service,

Dov and Olga Bikas and Aviv Ministry Team

For more information and for donations please visit our website:

www.avivministry.com



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